

THE SPARK GAP

MIDSTATE AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
146835

FEBRUARY 1988

EDITOR TRIES NEW PROGRAM

It's hard to believe that another two months have gone by, and it's time for another newsletter. As I write this, I'm using a new desktop publishing program called First Publisher from PFS; it appears to be an extremely flexible and powerful program, so it's naturally



very difficult to learn! As I work with it, I'm going to try different features "on the fly", so things may be a little chaotic at times. Bear with me; if you don't like the looks of this newsletter, the next one may suit you better, because it will probably be different. KA900H

VE SCHEDULE

After all the upgrades MSARC had in 1987, I wonder who's left to take advantage of VE testing in '88! If there is anyone, here's the schedule:

March 13 (Sunday) Indiana Hamfest
(State Fairgrounds)
March 26 (Saturday) Columbus
May 21 (Saturday) Rushville
June 18 (Saturday) Columbus
Sept. 24 (Saturday) Columbus
Oct. 22 (Saturday) Rushville
Dec. 17 (Saturday) Columbus

For these exams, send your 610 or *legible* copy of your current license

Til Kinser KI9R

6651 N. 110W

Columbus IN 47203

Bring \$4.55 (exact change only) to test site with you; the VEs can't n change or take checks or money ord. Til needs your 610 at least ten ahead of time, so please accomodate h..... Remember, coordinating VEs is a lot of work, so your cooperation will be appreciated.

If this schedule doesn't fit yours, remember that the Red Cross ARC gives tests on the first Saturday of every even month in downtown Indianapolis. For this VE, the contact is:

Louise Clark KA9H

6019-D Nalon Lane

Speedway IN 46224

241-1272

Most VEs can accommodate later checkins, but don't push your luck. Study hard and be ready early, to make their jobs easier.

N9AZD/R

Thanks to Larry WB9YAJ, Larry N9DLN and Joe KA9ZPA for repairs to the repeater, chiefly to the antenna. Last month's winds messed up the antenna, but they fixed it. At that, we were a lot luckier than some other repeater owners: both the 511 and 525 lost at

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

least one antenna completely!

MEETING FEBRUARY 20! DON'T MISS IT!
NOVICE COURSE STARTS

ALL club members are invited, even urged, to attend the first night of the Novice class, starting on Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 PM at University Heights Hospital. The publicity went out about three weeks ago, and judging by the telephone calls I've been getting, it may well be a grade-A mob scene the first night!

FIRST CLUB COURSE

This will be the first Novice course actually sponsored and organized by the Club. (The previous courses were my own.) The committee includes Mac NY9K, Jack NT9J, Win K9EMV and Dave KA900H.

We plan to call on several club members to help teach the class, so if you have any expertise in an area such as antennas, DX, propagation, etc., you may be asked to give a talk to the class. Don't worry if you're not a professional teacher; few of us are. The Novice theory is quite basic, and long involved explanations are certainly not necessary; in fact, they'll turn off the students very fast. The best preparation is a brief outline and lots of enthusiasm! Also, don't "preach" or talk down to the class. They're there to get their Novice tickets, and I hope we all remember our early days, when we knew a lot less about hamming than we do now.

I'm hoping for a lot of young people and women in this class; getting more of both into Amateur Radio is a special project of mine. I've tested and passed people from

ages 10 to 79, and there is a special pleasure in passing the younger ones. If you're asked to help, please do. You'll enjoy it a lot.

DE N9DON

I wish to thank all who have volunteered for the Sunday night net. You are all doing a marvelous job.

A special thank you to NT9J, NY9K, KA900H AND W9MLN for all the hard work on the Novice class. I feel that your special talents and volunteer participation should make it a great success.

Dues are due (still \$12.00!), and we have 20 paid members. I'm taking a survey on ARRL members and will be calling you soon.

NEW MEMBER

Please welcome Russell Holderness KA9MZV, of Columbus. We'll put his name on the mailing list to be sent out later, after all dues are in.

THANKS

to all of you from N9DLN for your concern and get well wishes and cards. I'm doing fine and will be back in action soon.

Other get well wishes to WB9QLW, WD9HJN and NT9J.

Sympathy to KG9K and W9KNM.

Tom N9AZD won the Kerchunker prize at the January meeting.

DID YOU KNOW...

that MSARC was mentioned in the February QST (page 14) and on W1AW? We made the big time!